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Goodyera pubescens.—During the summer of 1880, desiring to get a flowering specimen of the above named plant to press, I visited the well-known locations hereabouts throughout the season, but was unable to find a solitary plant in flower, nor do I think any of the plants in this neighborhood flowered. The previous year there were the usual number of flowering plants, and so there are this year. It would be interesting to know if this is a common occurrence or the result of an accident.—JOSEPH MEEHAN, *Germantown, Phila.*

"Our Native Ferns."—This is the title of a very neat and handy volume by Lucien M. Underwood, of the Wesleyan University, Bloomington, Illinois.

The author has adopted the plan of Gray's Lessons and Manual for his work, dividing it into two parts, the first being devoted to a brief study of the habits, structure and classification of ferns, with appropriate sections on germination, fructification and the identification of species, and the second part to a systematic description of genera and species arranged in accordance with an original synoptical key.

As will readily be seen, the plan is an excellent one, and has been well carried out by the author, who is not only deserving of great credit, but the thanks of all fern students as well.

The sections of the first part are well calculated to introduce a beginner to the study of the interesting plants of which the author has himself been so appreciative a student, and contain scarcely anything for adverse criticism. It is, however, to be regretted that the term "*rhizoma*" should have been used in so broad and general a sense as to include all kinds of rootstocks. The term has a more restricted meaning to which it should be limited, merely standing for one kind of a rootstock, just as a caudex does for another kind.

If one general term is to be used it is better to adopt that of "rootstock" in accordance with the excellent practice of Prof. Eaton in Ferns of N. Am., a work, by the way, with which Mr. Faxon's name ought to have been associated in the chapter on "Fern Literature." The artificial synopsis is an excellent one, that will prove to be of much service to amateurs in identifying specimens, and, so far as examined, the descriptions are concise and clear.

The illustrations, although not of a very high order, assist the explanations in the text, which throughout is clearly written. The two glossaries of technical terms at the end might as well have been combined in one, and it may be in place in connection with them to state that *Aspidium Boottii* was named for Wm. Boott, who discovered it, and not Dr. Francis. The author's views in general are conservative, and his book, which is to be commended, will no doubt serve the purpose for which it was intended admirably.—GEO. E. DAVENPORT.

Nasturtium lacustre.—I found this plant in a little pond near Lincoln, Ill. It had been flowering for some time, and as the racemes grew longer, the plant seemed to sink lower and lower into the water. Some had a few leaves still above the water, but most of them had ev-